The 11 WONDERS of the WORLD!

First National Pictures

NORMA TALMADGE in Camille
Road-Show Special—$2.00 Broadway Hit

COLLEEN MOORE in Orchids and Ermine
Turnaway at The Buffalo and 50 Others

CONSTANCE TALMADGE in Venus of Venice
Led Town in Seattle—Wow at Capitol, N.Y.

CORINNE GRIFFITH in Three Hours
Dramatic Sensation Wherever it Plays

HARRY LANGDON in Long Pants
Led Town in Los Angeles—Line Every Night

MILTON SILLS in The Sea Tiger with Mary Astor
Great Reception at New York Hippodrome

Charlie Murray and Chester Conklin
in McFADDEN'S FLATS
Long-Run Laugh Sensation—Year's Biggest Hit!

BABE RUTH in Babe Comes Home
with Anna Q. Nilsson and Louise Fazenda
Greatest Name in America in Greatest Sport Film

THE TENDER HOUR with Billie Dove and Ben Lyon
George Fitzmaurice's Spectacular Romance

CONVOY with Dorothy Mackaill and Lowell Sherman
Thunderous Ovation at Record Hartford Preview

George Sidney and Charlie Murray
in LOST AT THE FRONT
A Military "McFadden's Flats"—War Comedy Wow

NO WONDER SHOWMEN are counting on FIRST NATIONAL'S BIG 11 to lick the WORLD this SUMMER!

Member of Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America Inc.—Will H. Hays President

Shem-m-me night!

—the New York Strand Opening Night of—

HARRY LANGDON *in* "Long Pants"

produced by
The HARRY LANGDON *Corporation*

Audience in furor!—Critics rip dictionaries to shreds searching praise-phrases for

LANGDON'S BEST!

"Harry Langdon's best film. Packed with hilarious fun." —*N. Y. American*

"'Long Pants' leads 'em all in laughs!" —*Telegraph*

"Audience rolled around exactly as if they were seated in rocking chairs." —*N. Y. World*

First National Pictures

GISE

McFADDEN'S FLATS-and now LONG PANTS-prove

FIRST NATIONAL'S

has the only COMEDIES worth playing!

11 BIG

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director
GEORGE C. WILLIAMS
President

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"For He's a Jolly Good Fellow"

"PETE" WOODHULL has been elected President of "Greater M. P. T. O." I hope F. B. O. will excuse me for borrowing their caption for the occasion, which records the event at Columbus, Ohio.

It was a grand occasion with just enough "kick" in it to make it worth watching. If I was a rooster instead of a "chicken" I would do a little crowing such as "Cock-a-doodle-do, I told you so."

RAY LEWIS

Those who read the various articles which appeared in The Digest, and in The Exhibitors Daily Review analyzing events leading to the Columbus Convention, with suggestions for a strengthening of the M. P. T. O. A. will find that there was something akin to prophecy in these articles in relationship to what occurred at Columbus.

As suggested in these various articles, the platform of the M. P. T. O. A. will now consider eligible for membership all exhibitors, regardless of their status as producer-distributor-exhibitors.

The exhibiting forces of our Industry will now be enabled to have an organization representing their particular phase of the Industry across the American continent. The screens of the U. S. and Canada will be welded into an organization which will represent one of the greatest forces of this present civilization; and will project its power wherever such illumination and service is necessary, for its own good, and fo rthe public good.

Such a radical platform was not adopted without some misgivings on the part of those exhibitors, who still feel that a radical independence is necessary for their protection, who still feel that a union of threatened forces is a bulwark against the invaders.

I congratulate the M. P. T. O. A. that within their ranks they had leaders forceful enough to gain the confidence of those who doubted the wisdom of such a programme; and that an all-exhibitors organization is on the foundation of reality.

"Pete" Woodhull is the President. The first President of such an organization, with an opportunity to now exercise those qualifications which have earned him the glory of "He's a jolly good fellow" by way of greeting. "Pete" is more than a jolly, good fellow. He is a good fellow, good in his outlook on life and a "good head," meaning that his brain functions; and with such guidance as he will have from the new Board of Directors, who represent the leaders across America, men from each state of motion picture association, state leaders having the confidence of their organization, thirty willing workers for the general good, President "Pete" should ride his "White Horse" to victory.

"Pete" was no "dark horse" in the Presidential running. Once in Columbus, Ohio, you felt it might be President James of Ohio, or "Pete" Woodhull; and you concluded it would be "Pete" for President James of the Ohio organization admires our new National President so prodigiously that he would never accept a nomination with "Pete" on the slate.

"Pete" was never a radical, therefor he will be able to adopt the new policy easily, reflecting, as in the past the wishes of the majority, and since I have a weakness for giving advice and suggestions, may I, in wishing our President good luck, and a year of history-creating office, may I suggest that he eliminate from his "good-natured make-up that fear of occasionally using "the slipper" on whoever needs it, for we can't always register 100%, the best of us, regardless of our intentions, miss the intention at times; and if we are not checked up we go blissfully on making similar mistakes.

It is not humanly possible to please everybody all the time, therefor if a President has convictions, and the power of his convictions, if he is sincere in his office; and knows the business with which he is associated, it is a good enough policy to follow the wishes of the majority; and if a minority has the keener judgment, to educate the majority into seeing whatever happens to be on the board, straight.

After you read the names selected for the Board with Julian Brylawski as its Chairman, you will feel that the rejuvenated M. P. T. O. A. veterans, plus the new "Young Bloods" will add vigour and strength to "Pete" Woodhull's reign.

Ray Lewis

You now get the incomparable quality and constant supply and perfect service of PARAMOUNT in THE WHOLE SHOW!

That's the Big Message for 1927-8 that exhibitors are stamping "100% APPROVED"— and DOING IT WITH CONTRACTS.

PARAMOUNT
100%
PROGRAM

Paramount-the Whole Show

Ray Presents

WITH the passing away of Raymond Peck, the Industry in Canada and America loses one of its best friends and enthusiasts. Not only was Ray Peck valuable to the Industry because of his knowledge of its needs, his interesting service to it through the splendid Canadian pictures he made for the government, but through the service he rendered it by being a gentleman, for gentleman he was and good fellow, a veritable ambassador for the Industry during his life of Motion Picture contact.

Most of the friends of Ray Peck knew of his infinite devotion to his mother. He was in truth a "mother's boy" in the finest significance of that word, possessing those sound, conservative and modest attributes which belong to all men who have a parental reverence in their make-up.

THE Industry of Motion Pictures was proud to have him as one of its own, to have him represent its interests, for Ray Peck quickly dispelled by his graciousness, his good English, his poise and quiet, forceful manner of talking, the belief which prevails among some people, that being in the "movies" indicates a sort of lack of intelligence, or culture.

The Government Motion Picture Bureau will find it most difficult to replace him, and will feel his loss as keenly as do we, who mourn him, not only as an associate, but as a beloved friend.

RAYMOND PECK

(To Ray from Ray)

Good-bye, dear Ray,
We hate to say
"Good-bye,"
E'en though we know,
You only go
A little while,
E're we too join
The Silent Processional,
The Dead March,
Leading to The Confessional,
Across the Milky Way:
Methinks that every star I see
Is a soul set free,
That Death gives us our place
In the Infinitude of Space;
Star-dust on earth are we,
Celestial Beings of Eternity,
Made to fulfill the prophecy
Of the Resurrection,
To die to reach
Our Heaven.

THE OPENING of the New Runnymede Theatre, a Famous-Players Toronto addition, is described in the press as an epoch in the community life of Runnymede. The seating capacity of 1,550 was taxed and thousands obliged to wait their turn the next evening. "Jimmy" Lynch, a former Runnymede boy, is the manager. A three-minute-tour with the Runnymede cameraman, in which many familiar faces were seen upon the screen, proved a popular number.

IF the Ontario Jockey Club is to blame for the non-appearance of the King's Plate event at the Woodbine, upon the screen, then the Ontario Jockey Club needs a lesson in what is considered good publicity for Toronto and Canada.

Both the Fox and Pathe News Reel cameramen state that the fault lies entirely with W. P. Fraser, secretary of the Ontario Jockey Club, under whose jurisdiction was the photographing of the King's Plate. All necessary applications were posted three weeks before the event, but the applicants received no reply; and calling at the offices of the Club, well in advance of the meet, they were told to return the next day. On the following day they were informed that permission for the taking of motion pictures would not be given.

Whether Mr. Fraser is to blame, or not does not concern us, what does concern Torontonians is the fact that there are "rubes" in Toronto, who function publicly, who have authority sufficient to kill a fine bit of international publicity for Toronto. Imagine an intelligence brilliant to this degree, "If every race track in the world favours motion pictures of their events, the Woodbine will be different by not permitting motion pictures." And I thought that people who had anything to do with horses developed horse-sense at least.

F. B. O. Convention Gets Many Canuck Delegates

The Eastern Convention of the F. B. O. forces at Atlantic City, N. J., early in May drew a substantial attendance from Eastern Canada. P. C. Taylor, general manager for Film Booking Offices of Canada, Limited, 277 Victoria Street, Toronto, headed the delegation to Atlantic City and later attended the mid-Western convention at Chicago.

F. B. O. managers at the Eastern congress were Barney D. Murphy, Toronto; Harry Decker, Montreal, and A. L. Gaudet, St. John, N. B. Eastern Canadian salesmen who also attended included J. Allen, S. Garr and S. Jacobs. Western managers at Chicago were: A. E. Rolson, Vancouver, B. C., V. Dixon, Calgary, and T. Newcomen, Winnipeg.

SHORT TALKS
ON
SHORT FEATURES

—They're Off!

They're off! Like racers leaping away at the crack of the pistol, the sales forces are beginning their annual campaigns. And the Short Feature gets greater attention; bigger emphasis is put on it everywhere; salesmen are talking about the Short Feature who never sold one before.

But, after all, the product itself isn't changed so very much. The company that has kept faith with you in the past will do so in the coming season.

What a line-up *Educational* offers you! Lupino Lane, Lloyd Hamilton, "Big Boy," Dorothy Devore, Larry Semon, the Tuxedo Comedies with Johnny Arthur, the Mermaid Comedies, and the fine group of single reel subjects including Cameo Comedies, Lyman H. Howe's Hodge-Podge, Robert C. Bruce's Outdoor Sketches, Felix the Cat Cartoons, Curiosities and the best news reel on the market, Kinograms. Supported by national advertising and big exploitation tie-ups; backed up by seven years of specialized experience in the Short Feature field.

Don't be dazzled by the excitement of the get-away. The safest way is to play the favorite—the favorite of 13,000 exhibitors.

E. W. Hammons
President

EDUCATIONAL
FILM EXCHANGES, Inc.

Educational Pictures
"THE SPICE OF THE PROGRAM"

Warner Bros. Deny Company Has Sold Reisner Contract

Charles F. Reisner, who directed Syd Chaplin in "The Better 'Ole," "The Missing Link" and other comedy successes, has not severed his connection with Warner Bros. The company wishes it emphatically understood that contrary to published reports, Director Reisner is still under contract to them.

His services have merely been loaned to make the picture with Buster Keaton and upon its completion he will return to the Warner lot to make comedies for the latter organization. Warner Bros. add that their contract with Reisner is not for sale, has not been sold or will not be sold.

"The Wedding March"

"Finis" will shortly be written to "The Wedding March," latest work of Erich von Stroheim and on which that director has been working for over a year and a half. The picture is now in the final stages of cutting and will be ready to be previewed within the next few weeks.

Von Stroheim is the star as well as author and director of "The Wedding March" and in it he is surrounded by Fay Wray, Zasu Pitts, Maude George, Dale Fuller, George Fawcett, George Nichols, Mathew Betz, Cesare Gravina and Hughie Mack. The picture was produced by P. A. Powers and is to be released through Paramount Famous Lasky as a road show special.

FRANKIE'S STARDOM

Frankie Darro, eight years old, who for the past year has been identified with Tom Tyler and his gang in Western pictures, has risen to stardom in his own right in the last week.

Joseph P. Kennedy, President of F. B. O., saw the boy's work in "Judgment of the Hills," a picture just completed at the Company's Hollywood studios and was so impressed with it that, after conferences with William Le Baron and sales executives from New York, he decided to elevate the youngster to stellar ranks.

"We have found in Frankie Darro the greatest child actor the screen has ever known. He will fill a position on the screen today that has been vacant for the last two years at least. There have been no child stars at the age of eight years," said Mr. Kennedy.

"Frankie has been working in F. B. O. pictures for a year and a half and in that time has become a favorite in every picture he has appeared. It was not until 'Moulders of Men' however, that we discovered we had potential star material in the boy. When we decided to produce 'Judgment of the Hills' it was necessary for us to have the best child actor in motion pictures to play the role of 'Tad Dennison.' Naturally we gave the part to little Frankie. In it he gave such a marvelous performance and showed such unmistakeable star material, that Frankie becomes our youngest star."

Miss Chang Chin Yuen photographed with Carl Laemmle, President of Universal Pictures Corp., while visiting Universal City. Miss Yuen is the Laura La Plante of China.

Columbus Discovered America in 1492.

When he said the earth was round, they said he ought to have his head read.

He finally convinced Queen Elizabeth and King Ferdinand of Spain to back him on his great adventure.

Davy Jones' locker was the treasure-house which many a Columbus, eager for new worlds found; and those who lived to return without the new land or Eldorados, lost the head they saved for having failed.

Some there were who said that Columbia would also strike a snag, a rock in the seas of production; lose its head, and go down.

But Columbia carried the life-buoy of "The Perfect Thirty" on its adventurous cruise, and discovered that there was a land for Independent pictures of "The Perfect Thirty" quality; an established land of "milk and honey" as ancient and as certain as the America which Columbus had discovered.

The moral of this tale is "get in the royal class which believes in the great adventurers, that things possible of conception, can be won and done."

Get aboard "*The Perfect Thirty*," it is a sea-worthy vessel which will pilot you securely into the Harbor of Frosperity.

When you cast your net from "*The Perfect Thirty*" you get *Thirty Perfect Specimens of Entertainment;* and believe me, your audience gets a whale of a good time; not **one perfect picture** but "The Perfect Thirty."

Jos Brandt

President Columbia Pictures

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Canadian Head Office

Hermant Building,

21 Wilton Square

JOHN C. FLINN, VICE-PRESIDENT WIRES DIGEST OF GIGANTIC MERGER

First Motion Picture Enterprise to Cover All Units From Raw Film to Theatre Presentation

The following telegram from Los Angeles to The Digest, signed by John C. Flinn, Vice-President of the Pathe P. D. C. new affiliated enterprises, discloses that his organization will be the first in the Industry to cover every phase of Motion Pictures from the manufacture of the raw film stock to the presentation of the finished picture in a theatre owned and operated by the same company.

Vice-President Flinn's telegram reads as follows:

Los Angeles, Calif.

Editor Canadian Moving Picture Digest
259 Spadina Avenue Toronto Ontario

The final launching of the first motion picture enterprise to encompass in one company all phases of the Industry from the manufacture of the raw film stock to the presentation of the finished pictures was announced today by Cecil B DeMille Elmer Pearson and John C Flinn officials of the new organization at the DeMille Pathe P D C convention Stop Banquet at the Ambassador Hotel this revolutionary enterprise which results from the recently consummated alliance of the De Mille Pictures Corp Pathe Exchange Inc and Producers Distributing Corporation with the Keith Albee Orpheum B S Moss Proctor and affiliated theatre circuits will be headed by John J Murdock who is now general manager of the Keith-Albee interests Stop In number of pictures and diversity of product the output of this affiliation will exceed that of any existing picture company and officials declare that in point of revenue it should easily top any figures heretofore attained in the business examination of the perfected plans reveals that this new enterprise is in a unique and distinctive position to supply every type of entertainment essential to the successful operation of a motion picture theatre Stop Cecil B DeMille with his firmly established studio facilities will produce for 1927-28 release forty feature pictures with the numbers of specials and road show attractions quadrupled over last years Stop There will be twenty six regular attractions ten specials to be made for long runs and two day policies and four road shows to be handled as has been the King of Kings Stop At least one of the latter group will be directed by DeMille while the arrangements just completed with James Cruze include his direction of at least two more Pathes Stop 1927-28 production schedule calls for a total of 450 pictures both short subjects and features including 104 Pathe News issues 52 releases of the Pathe Review 52 Topics of the Day 52 Aesops Film Fables 6 ten episode serials 26 Grantland Rice Sportlights 52 Mack Sennett and Hal Roach comedies 12 Will Rogers one reel features and 8 Rarebits Stop Pathe also will release 3 Monty Banks feature comedies and 40 western feature length productions Stop It was announced that owing to these greatly augmented production scheduled the amount of money spent in production this year will be doubled over that of last season the new concern through its association with Pathe Dupont and the Pathe interests manufactures its own raw film cameras and home projectors Stop The Keith Albee Orpheum B S Moss Proctor and Affiliated Circuits provide a notable reservoir of stage talent as well as a vast theatre outlet for the product Stop The Orpheum interests were represented at last nights banquet by Frank Vincent Pacific coast manager for that circuit

JOHN C FLINN
Vice President

Courtesy with Service

Motiograph De Luxe Projectors.
Cont-El-Arc Motor Generators.
Superlite Gold Fibre Screens.
Brenkert Spot-Flood Lamps.
Vallen Curtain Controls.
Universal Electric Plants.
Ross Projection Lenses.
National Projection Carbons.
Repair Parts for
All Makes of Projectors.
Complete Theatre Supplies.

Canada's Leading Theatre Supply House.

The Coleman Electric Co.
258 Victoria St. - Toronto, Ont.

Dolores Costello To Star In "The Heart of Maryland"

Perfection in casting players for the portrayal of historical characters has been reached, Warner Bros. believe in the choice of actors for the screen version of David Belasco's play, "The Heart of Maryland" now in production with Dolores Costello as the star and Lloyd Bacon as the director.

Following a several months search Warners state that they have found an ideal trio of character actors to bring to the screen, the three great Civil War celebrities, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. Charles Edward Bull has been signed for the Lincoln role. James Welch will play General Lee and Walter Rogers will appear as General Grant.

The likeness of these players to these famous personages is practically flawless. Their beards and hair are their own, their features and statures almost exact and they are each within a few years of the age the celebrities themselves had attained at the time of the Civil War.

Theatre Decoration

is next in importance to good pictures. You will get "bigger houses" if the public find in your Theatre that harmonious atmosphere of restfulness necessary for complete relaxation. Entrust the decoration of your Theatre to

J. O. DOUGALL
Theatre Decorating Specialist
292 Borden St.—TRinity 3794—Toronto

Belleville Fire Brigade Stages Demonstration

Jack Fuld, who is covering Ontario on a "get the business" campaign for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, has staged a Fire Brigade demonstration in conjunction with the showing of "The Fire Brigade" at the Belle Theatre, June 9th, 10th, and 11th under the auspices of the International Fire Chiefs' Association.

This demonstration is in answer to Fire Marshall George Lewis' criticisms at a recent Rotary luncheon in which Belleville's Fire Department was alleged to be not as modern as existing fire conditions necessitated. Chief Brown of Belleville considers that his present Fire Brigade "does the work," it puts out the fire.

Meanwhile Jack Fuld likes nothing better than to start a couple of Fire Chiefs on a demonstrating Fire Brigades argument.

It's almost as good as Fuld's "Turtle Brigade."

The earthly remains of Raymond S. Peck, director of the Canadian Government Motion Picture Studio at Ottawa, were borne to the grave in the Maple Leaf Cemetery, Chatham, Ontario, from the residence of his brother, Wilfred Peck, Chatham, on May 30, the funeral being one of the largest ever held in that city.

Friends in every walk of life, including Senators, Commoners, mayor and former mayor of Chatham, six aldermen of the city, the Postmaster, representatives of the Ontario Government, the city manager and the city solicitor of Chatham, exhibitors, many Masons and others formed a lengthy cortege that told of the esteem in which Ray Peck had been held.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Capt. D. H. Marshall, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, and the burial was performed according to the Masonic ritual by the members of Wellington Lodge No. 46 A.F. and A.M.

Season 1927-28

Twelfth Annual Announce

The Greatest Li Pictures and Short

REGAL FILMS LIMITED, Canada's Oldest and Largest Film Distributing Co
Canadian Distributors for the world-famous Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Feature Pi
Also the much talked about DeMille Master Pictures and Cecil B. DeMille Su
coming season we also will continue to bring to

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Feature Pictures

The Big Parade of Stars in 47 Box Office Money-Getters such as only M-G-M can furnish, including "Ben Hur" and "The Big Parade."

Exhibitors who have used M-G-M Features during the past two seasons will need no urging to use them again.

"More Stars than there are in Heaven." Directors with international reputations.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures are your best bet.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Junior Pictures

M-G-M News
104 Issues. Twice Weekly

M-G-M Oddities
Produced by U.F.A. all over the world.
26 Issues.

M-G-M Great Events
Entirely in Technicolor. 6 Issues.

Hal Roach Comedies
10 Our Gang Comedies.
10 Charlie Chase Comedies.
10 Max Davidson Comedies.
10 Western Comedies.
10 All Star Comedies.

M-G-M Short Subjects, like M-G-M Features will be the talk of the Industry.

Twelve Years of Satisfactory Service

REGAL FIL
TORONTO MONTREAL ST. JOHN

nt of Regal Films Limited

ne-up of Feature ubjects Ever Offered

Season 1927-28

any, is proud to announce that during season 1927-28 it will again be the res, as well as that Company's New Line of Comedies and Other Short Subjects. -Specials; the entire line of Pathe Features, Comedies, Serials, etc. During the nada the outstanding features produced in England.

De Mille Master Pictures

36 outstanding Features, with 10 of them in the Super-Special Class.

A List of Favorite Stars and Directors that reads like the Blue Book of Filmdom.

The recent amalgamation of P.D. C., Keith-Albee, the Orpheum Circuit and Pathe has placed this Company in the very front among the world's great producers.

Every Picture will be an outstanding hit.

Entire Line Pathe Short Subjects

Mack Sennett Comedies

The best known comedy producer will provide 40 two-reelers, divided in three series of 12 each.

Harry Langdon Comedies.
Ben Turpin Comedies.

Pathe Serials

Five big productions on the most elaborate scale Serials were ever made.

Pathe News
Issued Weekly. Best of All.

Pathe Review
Issued Weekly. Favorite Everywhere.

Aesop's Fables
Issued Weekly. Single Reel Cartoon.

Topics of the Day
Issued Weekly. Always Wanted.

Grantland Rice Sportlights

MS LIMITED

WINNIPEG CALGARY VANCOUVER

If it comes from Regal it IS Good

Fox Building Program Includes Thirty Theatres

Wall Street Journal Publish Comprehensive Plans Fox Expansion

The Wall Street Journal which is publishing a series of motion picture articles dealing on expansion as it involves Finance, has in its No. 5 article a comprehensive outline of the Fox expansion plans. The article reads as follows:—

Fox Film Corporation has joined in the contest for position in the theatrical field with an exceedingly ambitious and unique plan. Working on the theory that the trend has set definitely toward mammoth theatres, Fox has laid out a building program for the next few years calling for the construction of 30 first run theatres seating on the average between 4,000 and 5,000 persons each, all located in key cities of the United States. The theatres will cost from $5,000,000 to $12,000,000 each and most of them will include adjoining office buildings and stores. Between $150,000,000 and $200,000,000 will be expended before the system is completed, entailing an extensive real estate financing program.

With the present trend toward consolidation in the industry into a few great systems it was necessary for Fox either to put its organization on the same plane of national importance as the other large systems or else be eventually absorbed into another group. The former course was chosen.

Fox Film Corporation, the parent company, was incorporated in 1915. Capital consists of 400,000 shares of no par Class A stock and 100,000 shares of no par Class B sharing alike in earnings. There is no preferred stock. Net profit of the company in 1926 was $3,477,910, including $1,-956,533 excess amortization of films previously written off in the period and subsequently credited. This was equal to $6.06 a share on the 500,000 shares of capital stock outstanding. In the preceding year net profit was $2,752,547 equal to $5.54 a share. In the last five years net earnings after all charges averaged $2,220,064, or $4.44 a share.

Record Earnings for Quarter

In the first quarter of this year net earnings were $857,983, establishing a new high record for a quarter's earnings. This does not, however, include income from the new productions made during the past year. It was this increase in number of feature productions which made it necessary to reduce the rate of amortization written off last year, since the pictures had not been released and were not producing income.

Having planned to build a chain of first run theatres it was necessary for Fox to increase film production to the point where a sufficient supply of feature pictures would be on hand to supply these new houses. With this idea in mind, the studios in Los Angeles have been practically rebuilt in the last two years.

Last season's production program included a number of major films of which the most important are "Seventh Heaven," just opened on Broadway for its pre-release showing, "Sun Rise," recently completed at a cost of $1,200,000 and which is expected to be an unusually profitable film, and "What Price Glory," which cost $1,-000,000. The schedule for next year contains the largest number of productions Fox has ever made. In this way film production will be on a par with the expansion in the theatrical field.

Studio Rebuilt

Fox Film Corporation recently turned over to a subsidiary holding company its studio property, on which was placed an issue of $4,000,000 6% bonds. New money obtained in this way cleared up all current indebtedness incurred on account of the large increase in expenditures for film production which is still tied up in inventories. The company is now in good cash position, with bank loans and with an inventory of high grade films all paid for and ready for release. Income from these new films will be reflected in profits, beginning September, 1927.

The financing of the theatre expansion program is being worked out so as to leave the Fox Film Corporation entirely unencumbered with bonds or bank loans so that it will be clear to handle the more ambitious film program with its own funds.

All of Fox's theatre will be owned or operated by the affiliated company, the Fox Theatres Corporation, which has the same management as the parent company without being directly connected with it. In this way the film production and exhibition end of the business are being kept separate.

Fox Theatres Corporation

Capital of Fox Theatres Corporation consists of 800,000 shares of no par Class A stock and 100,000 shares of no par Class B stock. There is no preferred. The company was founded in November, 1925, with total asset of $21,000,000, consisting of real estate and cash. Its net profit for the 52 weeks ended October 31, 1926, was $757,651, whcih does not of course include any income from the new theatre projected. The new group will and about $40,000,000 to the gross assets of the company.

	Seats	*Cost*
Brooklyn	5,000	$11,000,000
Detroit	5,000	10,500,000
St. Louis	5,000	7,000,000
San Francisco*.	5,000	7,000,000
Los Angeles ...	5,500	7,000,000
Philadelphia ...	4,200	12,000,000
Kansas City....	4,000	2,500,000
Boston	5,000	7,000,000
Newark	4,800	5,000,000

*Indicates theatres built by local capital which will be leased.

In laying out the plan of building, the key cities of the United States were divided into three groups. In the first group are cities of 1,000,000 population and over, including New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, etc. In the second group are cities of around 500,000 population and in the third group are cities with an average poulation of 250,000.

The erection of buildings in the most important cities is already under way. Construction work has been started on new theatres in Brooklyn, New York, Detroit, St. Louis, Washington, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Operates in N. Y. Through Roxy Circuit

A number of plans are employed in acquiring theatres. New York has been covered by the purchases of a majority of the common stock of the Roxy Circuit, Inc., which controls the Roxy Theatre, the largest theatre in the world, seating 6,200 people. This theatre made a new high record for Memorial Day week-end, taking in a total of $70,500 for three days. Roxy Circuit also will operate under lease the Roxy Midway and Roxy Mansion in New York City, seating 3,800 persons each.

Other houses will be built and financed by the Bank of Italy which will be leased by Fox Theatre. In Washington a theatre will be leased from the builders of the National Press Club building.

The new theatre in Detroit costing $10,500,000 is being financed by a separate bond issue of $6,400,000. The balance of the cost will be handled by the Fox Theatres Corporation, which will probably handle the bulk of the construction work.

Columbia Use Circus To Finish "The Clown"

"The Clown" will utilize the threering circus of Al. G. Barnes show for scenes which are necessary to the completion of this Columbia pictures feature.

The Barnes Circus will provide the show, while 1,000 extras will be utilized for the audience effects.

William V. Mong is "The Clown" and Dorothy Revier and Johnnie Walker important players in the cast.

Commission Continues To Examine Witnesses

Sunday Openings and Children's Attendance Still Leading Questions

The Royal Commission of Montreal is still in a state of the examination of witnesses following the Palace Laurier Montreal Fire Tragedy. The Commision is under the jurisdiction of Justice Boyer.

An important witness was Chief Gautheir of the Fire Department. The Chief related in detail what occurred at the theatre concerned in the tragedy, and advocated the placing of a fireman in every theatre and moving picture house in order to make them safe. Seventy additional men would have to be added to the fire department if this procedure was adopted.

The Chief, when questioned concerning the attendance of children, stated that he thought they should not be permitted to attend theatres unaccompanied; and when questioned on the Sunday issue, the Chief stated that if children were not permitted to attend theatres Sunday they would likely play upon the streets; and a greater number of accidents would result therefrom.

Labour Advocates Sunday Shows

Frank Griffard was another witness. Mr. Griffard is a Montreal labour organizer; and he stated that the various unions with which he was associated voted unanimously against the Sunday closing of theatres.

He said he remembered spending a Sunday in Toronto once and the only thing in the way of amusement was to play cards behind drawn blinds. On further examination he stated that fifty per cent of the workers in the union were clothing workers. The women worked nine hours a day and five days a week. They stayed home to do housework on Saturdays, leaving Sunday the only day free for amusement. The men could attend theatres on Saturday, but they waited to go with their families on Sunday.

W. E. Beaupre, a school teacher, did not approve of movies much on any day, he seldom went and never on Sunday. He cited Belgium and Switzerland as countries wherein children under sixteen were not allowed to attend movies.

J. A. Bernier, a commercial traveller, was another witness who saw very little good in the "Movies." He produced a resolution from the Catholic Commercial Travellers' Association asking that no children under sixteen be allowed to attend motion picture theatres and that theatres be closed on Sundays. He further stated that his association had sent sixty-six members to thirty-three picture theatres and the report was that a large number of the pictures were of a criminal type, anti-religious, anti-social, immoral, featuring seduction, abduction, murder, free love and other things. It is to be hoped that the other things such as "honour thy father and mother," "virtue hath its own reward," "The wages of sin is death" were also mentioned.

Police Captain T. O. Bellefleur

Another witness was Police Captain T. O. Bellefleur in whose district occurred the fatal fire. Captain Bellefleur stated that in order to control children's attendance it would be necessary to station a policeman at each theatre, perhaps two for some theatres. He stated that Sunday closing would not meet with the favour of the working people, but that children under sixteen should not be admitted to movies, save for special performances for the entertainment of children.

Three members of the clergy testified that they and the groups they represented were in favour of Sunday closing.

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Columbia Author-Producers Have International Names

In presenting "The Perfect Thirty," Columbia started right foot foremost in securing names which have been identified with supplying story material and direction that commands attention. So well-known is the group who are writing and producing for Columbia pictures that we have but to give you the following names in order that you may read for yourself why Joe Brandt, president of Columbia pictures names his releases "The Perfect Thirty."

Gertrude Atherton, Frances Marion, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Channing Pollock, Willard Mack, Louis Joseph Vance, George Bronson Howard, Owen Davis, Louella Parsons, Norman Springer, Octavus Roy Cohen, Rachel Crothers, Alfred Henry Lewis, Thompson Buchanan.

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"Ben Hur" Begins Triumphant Paris Run

French Enthusiasm Presages Year's Run at Least

Enthusiastic applause at the premiere of "Ben Hur," and a subsequent rush for tickets to see the great Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer spectacle convinced the manager of a theatre in Paris, showing the picture for the first time in France that it would have a successful run to the end of the year at top prices.

His cablegram to Arthur Loew, head of the M-G-M Foreign Department, follows:

"'Ben Hur' received greatest ovation of any film ever shown in Paris. Thunderous applause, bravos throughout entire performance. Never saw French audience so enthusiastic. Can count on run until end of year."

The spectacular film version of Gen. Lew Wallace's novel, directed by Fred Niblo, stars Ramon Novarro with May McAvoy, Francis X. Bushman, Sr., Kathleen Key and many other players in support. The costliest film of all time, adapted from a book with a sale, second only to that of the Bible, "Ben Hur" has been making theatre history on its road show tour through the United States; and in the cities in Canada in which it has been released.

Lois Wilson Starts "The Gingham Girl"

Lois Wilson has donned a gingham apron for the opening scenes this week of her Cinderella role in her current starring production, "The Gingham Girl," for F. B. O.

The new Lois — bobbed and vivacious — back in Hollywood for the first time in two years, is applying herself to "The Gingham Girl" without reservation.

David Kirkland is directing "The Gingham Girl," which is adapted from Daniel Kussell's successful musical comedy. George K. Arthur is playing the leading male role opposite Miss Wilson, and Lois states "It is exactly the role I have been hoping for."

"With Their Eyes Open"

In his next Paramount picture Adolphe Menjou will depart from the Parisian characterizations that have marked his roles in both "Evening Clothes" and his current production, "Service For Ladies," and will appear in a story laid amid English settings. This will be a screen version of I. A. R. Wylie's Saturday Evening Post story, "With Their Eyes Open."

Stanley Vaudeville Merger Again In Spotlight

New Deal Involves $250,000,000 Largest Combination of Amusement Interests

From Doresmus & Co., New York City, comes the following statement as published by the Exhibitors Daily Review:

Doresmus & Co., New York City, who speak with authority on matters pertaining to the Stanley Company of America, First National Pictures, Inc., and others in that recently merged group, issued the following late yesterday afternoon:

A $250,000,000 merger of motion picture and vaudeville companies, representing the largest combination of interests ever projected in the amusement field, is under negotiation and probably will be completed during the summer. The proposed consolidation, according to reports in Wall Street, will unite the Stanley Company of America, with the Keith and Orpheum vaudeville circuits and the B. S. Moss theatres organization, bringing under unified control a nation-wide chain of more than 600 theatres.

The first step in the combination, it is understood, will be a physical merger of the Keith and Orpheum interests, which dominate the vaudeville field, together with the B. S. Moss Company, which operates a New York City chain of combined vaudeville and picture houses. Later it is contemplated that a new company will be formed, providing for a consolidation of the Stanley Company and the enlarged Keith-Orpheum group.

While the present merger plans embrace mainly the motion picture and vaudeville theatre chains of the Stanley, Keith and Orpheum interest, the combination will have under its control extensive producing and distributing organizations which are designed to make it the most powerful unit of the amusement industry. Control of First National Pictures, one of the largest film producers in the country, is held by the Stanley Company of America jointly with the West Coast Theatres Company, while the Keith-Orpheum group has similar affiliations with Pathe Exchange, Producers Distributing Corporation and the Cecil B. DeMille producing concern. Eventually it is expected that the various film producing interests will be consolidated.

The plans now under consideration represent the latest move in a series of consolidations which have been under way since early this year, all of which aim to centralize control of the production, distribution and exhibition of motion pictures. The first important step was the passing of control of First National Pictures, Inc., to the Stanley Company of America and the West Coast Theatres, Inc. Subsequently, Pathe Exchange was recapitalized to permit a tie-up with the Keith and Orpheum groups, the Cinema Corporation, which controlled the Cecil B. De Mille productions, and Producers Distributing Corporation, a subsidiary of the Cinema Corporation.

Among the well-known executives who are participating in the present negotiations are E. F. Albee, head of the Keith organization; John J. McGuirk, president of the Stanley Company of America and of First National Pictures, Inc., and Mark Heiman, president of Orpheum Circuit, Inc.

Financial details are being arranged by Edward B. Smith & Co., bankers for the Stanley Company and First National Pictures and Lehman Brothers, representing the Keith and Orpheum groups.

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Fox Pathe News Get Airplane Crash

Two prominent cameramen of Ottawa, Ontario, George Valiquette for Fox News, and William Lane of Pathe, secured pictures of an airplane crash at Ottawa on June 2, when the second of two U. S. Army airplanes, which were arriving in the Canadian Capital on an official goodwill flight, figured in a smashup at the landing field right in front of the cameras.

The big DeHaviland bomber burrowed into the ground and was wrecked so badly that it had to be shipped back to Washington, D. C., on a flat car.

Toronto Theatres

UPTOWN — "Is Zat So?" with George O'Brien and Edmund Lowe —Fox.

TIVOLI — "The Claw," with Claire Windsor and Norman Kerry — Universal.

SHEA'S HIPPODROME — "The Love Thrill," with Laura La Plante — Universal.

PANTAGES — "Broadway Nights," with Lois Wilson—First National.

LOEW'S — "Tillie the Toiler," with Marion Davies — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Neighborhood Theatres

PALACE — "The British Clipper," with William Boyd and Elinor Fair —P. D. C. Class B. The stars of "The Volga Boatman" in an interesting and entertaining feature. "The Night of Love," with Ronald Coleman and Vilma Banky—United Artists. Class B plus. A romantic and thrilling tale of years gone by. Leads excellent, and supporting cast good.

ST. CLAIR — "Evening Clothes," with Adolphe Menjou—Paramount. Class B plus. Sophisticated Menjou in a role that suits him to perfection.

COLLEGE — "Michael Strogoff," with Ivan Moskine — Universal. Class A. A marvellous feature, with a superb cast. Beautiful scenes, well directed and photographed.

BEACH — "Michael Strogoff," with Ivan Moskine — Universal. "Long Pants," with Harry Langdon — First National. Class B plus. Langton, as usual, is a riot, and the picture registers as entertainment.

CAPITOL — "Slide, Kelly, Slide," with William Haines — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Class A. A "peach" of a baseball picture, that goes over with a bang. Haines slides away with the show, supporting cast good. "Lovers," with Alice Terry and Ramon Novarro—Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Class B. These two leads support each other admirably, and the picture is very entertaining.

BELSIZE — "Michael Strogoff," with Ivan Moskine — Universal. "The Fire Brigade," with Charles Ray — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Class A. Ray gets a chance to do some good work, and the picture goes over big. Supporting cast excellent. Scenes outstanding, and direction good.

OAKWOOD—"The British Clipper," with William Boyd — P. D. C. "The Night of Love," with Vilma Banky and Ronald Coleman — United Artists.

DANFORTH—"Three Hours," with Corinne Griffith — First National. Class B plus. Beautiful Corinne in a picture that gives her a great chance. Unusual and unusually good.

BLOOR—"The Night of Love," with Vilma Banky and Ronald Coleman —United Artists.

RUNNYMEDE — "Mr. Wu," with Lon Chaney — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Class B plus. Chaney again delights his audiences in a role which he plays perfectly. Renee Adoree does good work, and Ralph Forbes, as her lover, is excellent. "Slide, Kelly, Slide," with William Haines — Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

OFFICERS Of The M.P.T.O.A. ELECTED AT COLUMBUS

"Pete" Woodhull, President; M. J. O'Toole, Secretary; Louis Sagal, Treasurer. Business Manager to be appointed by the Board.

Vice-Presidents as follows: J. C. Brady of Toronto, Canada; Herman Blum, J. J. Harwood, M. A. Rosenberg, Frank Koch, Roy Gumbacker.

The Administrative Board, which was temporarily elected until the Board meets, within ninety days, maximum meeting time, as follows: Jack Miller, Chicago, Ill.; M. A. Rosenberg, Pittsburgh, Pa.; M. Comerford, Scranton, Pa.; Louis James, Columbus, Ohio; Nathan Yamins, Fall River, Mass.; Joseph Walsh, Hartford, Conn.; Louis Sagal, New Haven, Conn.

Joe Walsh was chairman of the committee to which was submitted the report of the old Board's recommendation in connection with the taking in of all theatre owners into the M. P. T. O. A., regardless of their affiliations and merger connections. On this committee was also, Louis James, M. Comerford, Fred Wehrenberg, I. Weinberg, M. A. Rosenberg.

"Underworld"

Gag man to a group of gangsters is Larry Semon's latest job. He is playing a comedy role in "Underworld," Ben Hecht's sensational crime story, and it is part of his impersonation to yank laughs out of such hard-boiled gangland characters as George Bancroft, Fred Kohler and Clive Brook. Semon portrays "Slippy" Lewis, an underworld jester, in the Paramount picture.

George Melford has been placed under contract by Universal. His first production will be "A Man's Past" with Conrad Veidt. The continuity was prepared by Charles A. Logue.

Canada's Diamond Jubilee Celebration, July 2nd

Canada's Diamond Jubilee Celebration which begins June 30th and continues to July 2nd with special Services in all the churches, commemorates sixty years of the Confederation of the Provinces of Canada.

Sixty years of union and of growing strength, of dreams and accomplishment, the moulding of a nation, a Dominion of Canada.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest appreciates the purpose of this commemoration, this Jubilee Celebration, and is happy to present the co-operation of the Motion Picture Industry in making the Diamond Jubilee a memorable event.

The Diamond Jubilee Confederation Number of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest will be published the week of June 26th. It will contain sketches of Canadian history and special features which will make it a number most worthy for your special files. It will present The Fathers of the Confederation and their biographies.

This Number will also present Joseph Kennedy's presentation of the Motion Picture Industry at Harvard, with portraits of the speakers, drawn specially for The Digest by the distinguished English artist, Joshua Smith, R.B.A.

These portraits of the leaders of our Industry will provide the Industry with a selection of artistic drawings which will reveal those characteristics in our leaders, which have made them lead, qualities which the camera photographically has failed to get, but which the artist's skill has caught with uncanny fidelity.

The purpose of this Digest Jubilee Number is to cement still closer in a bond of friendship the British and American Spirits, to express the mutual understanding and sympathy, the joy of participation in each other's joys, which the people of the United States and Canada express.

Please give The Digest your best co-operation in this matter by forwarding all the required copy requested, at your very earliest convenience. Remember that The Digest is a British Ambassador for the Picture Industry, with an Embassy in Canada.

NEW BOARD DIRECTORS OF M.P.T.O.A.

Julian Brylawski, Chairman of the Board.

Members as follows: I. W. Rodgers, Glen Harper, N. Bernstein, M. Comerford, L. N. Sagal, Joseph Walsh, E. M. Fay, Nathan Yamins, Louis Rome, L. B. Wilson, Fred Dolle, Jack Miller, Julian Brylawski, Joe Seider, Fred Wehrenberg, L. James, Nate Freedburg, I. W. Maxfield, D. A. Morris, Art Hurley, Steve Bauer, Fred Pickerell, Jules Michaels, I. Weinberg, Leon Rosenblatt, I. B. Phillips, C. H. Metzgar, John Schwalm, Rudolph Sanders, H. D. Wharton.

Mr. Joseph Seider resigned from the Board, his resignation was not accepted, but should a vacancy on the Board occur, Mr. J. C. Brady stood next highest in number of ballots cast for him; and he would be the normal selection for the vacancy.

COMMITTEE APPROVES TAKING IN M.P.T.O.A. PRODUCER-DISTRIBUTOR-EXHIBITORS

Wednesday sessions opened with a report by M. J. O'Toole, business manager of the M. P. T. O. A., National organization.

The highlights of Mr. O'Toole's report were centralized around the development of a combination of interests in our Industry, such a combination being considered as inevitable and following closely along other lines of commercial and industrial progress in the United States, where mergers became the clearing houses and helped in the sifting processes of separating the wheat from the chaff of industrial progress.

Mr. O'Toole stated that in most cases of sell out, or mergers by Independents, the exhibitor received ample compensation for the new arrangements he entered into, the forces in their expansive programme realizing that it was disastrous to leave "sore spots" along the trail of the upbuilding processes.

The speaker emphasized the value of public good-will and touched briefly on the over-exploitation of star names, stating that producing units were beginning to realize that the "picture is the thing and not the star."

The education of the public was being formulated along these lines owing to the instability of temperamental stars. The releasing of such stars from contractual relationships would give the Independent field a better opportunity to select its material for production and possibly help in the production of better pictures.

A general sitting-in of all exhibitors was necessary to curb the tendency to overbuild and overseat. The Board would in all probability issue a bulletin and establish a press service along such educative lines; and for the purpose of keeping exhibitors fully informed of the Industry's activities.

Telegrams of congratulations were read from J. M. Hull, absent Board member; Andy Smith, Nathan Burkan. Messages of good wishes also came from Lillian Gish, John Gilbert, Ramon Novarro, Lon Chaney, Mary Philbin, Reginald Denny, Laura La Plante, Hoot Bibson and Louis B. Mayer.

"Roxy" was a feature attraction as speaker at this session. He gave a most comprehensive and illuminating address on showmanship. He defined showmanship as a psychological treatment of any particular subject. To be a psychologist, to understand human greatnesses and weakness, the meeting point of the mob and the class was a necessity in good showmanship.

"No opportunity," stated "Roxy," "of gaining an advantage should be overlooked. There appeared at times the necessity for the great gesture in keeping the wheel of showmanship moving; and at other times a little tap sent it around, the essential was to keep the wheel moving uninterruptedly.

"Showmanship is based on judicial extravagance. If one applies the ordinary business economy in show business, it is a false economy which does not bring about the desired result. The 'Roxy' has broken every known record in theatre history. During the last three days of last week, Thurs., Fri., Sat., the 'Roxy' grossed $70,500. During a period of about three months this theatre has registered an attendance of two millions of people.

"Real showmen never fail. Make your theatre an institution. It is impossible to get good pictures weekly, therefore build up good-will to fill in the gaps. Every detail must be given attention. Surround yourself with clean-cut young people whom you can mould to assume responsibilities. Responsibility makes or breaks individuals. No man is big enough to handle the whole job of an enterprise, nor is it humanly possible in creating a big institution.

"The 'Roxy' has been most unfortunate in its selection of pictures, but despite this handicap it has broken records, playing to an average of 20,000 a day."

"Roxy" explained the mechanical feat of engineering which gave the theatre its capacity and its unobstructed view of stage and screen from any angle of the auditorium. He wished that the theatre had a larger capacity. He thought the time would arrive when he would need it. He feared no competition, accepted none, when that condition arrived he cautioned the exhibitors "to watch."

"The finest theatre in the world," stated "Roxy," "built independently and when affiliation appeared a necessity as it did, I sifted from all offers, the one from William Fox as best suited to the carrying out of what I had dreamed and planned for the "Roxy."

William Fox had given him full reign, "Go to it," said this symbol of picture progression, "Lose a million if necessary but win out."

There would be no losing stated the speaker for behind the whole project as behind the Radio service which he established there was that divine spirit, a sincerity of purpose, commercial in its reward, but coupling with it an inheritance which betokened that "Roxy had done his best" when the final curtain descends upon the final showmanship of "Roxy."

An interesting disclosure was the one which tied up Mike Comerford with "Roxy" as having sold him his first machine in the little town of Forest Hill, with its population of 6,000. This was about sixteen years ago; and today this whole town could be placed in the "Roxy" Theatre without overcrowding.

Another interesting speaker who received an ovation was Harry Reichenbacker, who expounded upon the showmanship which "got them in."

Continuing the business of the sessions, Joe Walsh as chairman of the committee which had the consideration of the eligibility of all theatres as members of the M. P. T. O. A. regardless of producer-distributing affiliations brought in the report of the committee as follows: "That the programme of an all theatres organization be given a trial during the coming year. The committee further recommended that the details be referred to the New Board of Directors.

Mr. Brylawski moved for the acceptance of the committee's report and further moved that the leaders of each state convene for the purpose of nominating members for the Board.

The various leaders retired for a conference and the meeting was adjourned until Thursday A.M.

A Banquet was held at the Neil Hotel the evening of June 9th with Harry Reichenbach as toastmaster.
Short addresses by Hon. Vic. Donahey, Governor of Ohio, C. Pettijohn representing the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors; Samuel A. Rothaphel, "Roxy" of New York City; Harry Warner, of Warner Bros.; R. F. Woodhull, president of M. P. T. O. A.; Edgar Guest, of Detroit, Mich, were given.

Brantford To Have A $100,000 Theatre

Brantford, Ont., is to have a new $100,000 theatre for pictures and vaudeville at the corner of Dalhousie and King Streets, the site of the old Imperial Hotel. The work of construction will begin during the next three weeks, according to information given out by T. H. Moorehead and G. J. Filman, of Brantford, Ont., and owners of a chain of theatres in Brampton, London and Welland.

The new theatre will be a one-floor house, modernly equipped with a full-sized stage and full orchestra. The roof one span which will eliminate the necessity of pillars, or supports which might interfere with the view from the auditorium. There will be seven exits, opening on three sides of the auditorium, the greatest distance from any exit being 22 feet. The building will be brick and concrete and will have a 92 feet frontage on King St. The main entrance will be at the corner of Dalhousie and King. The entire building will be fireproof.

"Mr. Wu" With Lon Chaney and the Navy League Boys Get Near Record

The Imperial Theatre, Ottawa, Ontario, enjoyed a near record week during the week of May 23 with the presentation of "Mr. Wu," starring Lon Chaney, together with the appearances of the Navy League Boys of Victoria, B. C., which was concluding a tour of Canada before proceeding to the British Isles and Europe for engagements. Manager Tubman had the band in several parades with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve of Ottawa during the week.

Wm. G. Overall Leaves For England

William G. Overall, manager of the Daylight Theatre, left Saskatoon with Mrs. Overall and the children for a two months' stay in England. Mr. Overall will return at the end of that period to Saskatoon, but the wife and the kiddies will make a longer visit with their English relatives.

Diamond Jubilee Confederation Resolution

(Submitted by RAY LEWIS, Honorary Secretary of the Canadian M. P. T. O. and adopted at the Columbus Convention, June 9th.)

The Dominion of Canada has always helped constructively in exhibitors' association progression. The Dominion of Canada has always extended a sincere and warm welcome to American citizens who visited its cities,or took up industrial residence within its borders.

The Dominion of Canada has helped to establish a good-will policy toward the Industry of Motion Pictures which has offices across that country; and whose screens have always been cordial to American pictures.

Canada is the nearest foreign friend which the American Industry of pictures has; and is America's Ambassador of Good-Will throughout the British Empire.

Therefore be it resolved that the M. P. T. O. of America in convention at Columbus, Ohio, June 8th, send a message of congratulations to Canada on the occasion of Canada's sixty year celebration beginning June 30th to July 2nd, recording Canada's Diamond Jubilee of the Confederation of the Provinces of Canada.

Ottawa Exhibitors Protest Against Free Carnivals

License Fee of $200 Daily Demanded

A vigorous protest against the presence of carnivals on the civic playgrounds of Ottawa, Ontario, was entered before the Ottawa Board of Control by a deputation representing the Theatre Owners Branch of the Retail Merchants Association of Ottawa, when a resolution was presented asking for a complete ban against the carnivals or the establishment of a license fee of $200 per day.

The exhibitors, who were headed by P. J. Nolan, proprietor of the Rex and Wellington Theatres, and a former Ottawa alderman, told the Board of Control that the carnivals were conducting their activities in the name of charity but that they were really disguised commercial enterprises drawing an undesirable element and retaining practically all receipts. They paid no taxes to the city and yet they provided unfair competition for the local theatres which had hundreds of thousands of dollars invested and paid heavy taxes and municipal fees.

The deputation included Mr. Nolan; J. M. Franklin, manager of B. F. Keith's Theatre; Ray Tubman, manager of the Regent and Imperial Theatres; J. T. Moxley, Francais Theatre; Solomon Coplan, Princess Theatre; Ambrose Nolan and J. K. Paisley, manager of the Ottawa Fair.

Only a few minutes after the Board had discussed the subject with the exhibitors, an application was received from the Ottawa Silver Band for the use of certain public grounds for a carnival in aid of the band. The application was immediately rejected.

The city has received a protest, however, from Cercle Ste. Anne, a Roman Catholic Society, against the banning of the carnivals. This society asked that the subject be re-opened so that further arguments could be presented.

PROJECTION

By GUY E. McALLAN

Recent news notes have told of a new invention which is supposed to make the picture theatre and projection room 100 per cent free from fire danger. It consists of a mechanism which, in case the film should take fire in the course of projection, drop the projection room shutters, turns on the lights in the theatre, sends a fire signal to the orchestra and the manager, switches off arc and machine drive motor. It is worked by a film link which catches fire if the upper loop should burn.

* * *

There has recently been quite a debate as to whether the plan black border had reached the end of its usefulness, many now contending that by reason of the great contrast between the dead black of the border and the picture, eye strain is set up. On the other hand it is contended by the advocates of a black border that if the black is replaced by a lighter color, say gray, then the picture does not stand out with such sharpness and contrast as when the black is used. As there is a good deal of truth in the claims made by both sides it has been suggested as a compromise that the picture be surrounded by a black border of two inches width and this by a broad gray border, thus gradually shading the picture out without great eyestrain and still retaining enough of the black border to get contrast.

* * *

It is often asked by projectionists why transformer or compenarcs as they are often called, are almost always what is known as an auto-transformer when used in projection room practise. The reason why the projection room arcs are fed through auto-transformers when they are run on A.C. is the great economy of material in such a transformer as compared with one of the straight type. Thus a small auto-transformer only takes roughly one sixth the amount of material that a straight transformer of the same output would.

Col. John A. Cooper At French Lick Convention

Film Boards Convene at First Annual

Col. John A. Cooper and G. O. Burnett left Toronto to attend the First Annual Convention of the Film Board of Trade Secretaries which was held in French Lick, June 2nd.

C. C. Pettijohn presided and J. D. Abramson acted as Secretary.

General Will H. Hays wired the convention as follows:

"C. C. Pettijohn, French Lick, Ind.

"Please convey to the Film Boards of Trade Secretaries assembled in convention at French Lick my kindest personal regards and best wishes as well as congratulations for the many constructive things done by them in the past for the general good and usefulness of the Motion Picture Industry. Tell them for me that the greatest service they can render personally is to stand steadfastly at all times for fair play and for absolute honesty in all arbitration board hearings. These Secretaries now have the confidence of the theatre owners in their respective zones and that confidence must be deserved and kept. Film Boards of Trade have made great strides in eliminating lost motion and waste in the business and there is much yet to be done. Do these things clearly, fairly and with sincerity of purpose at all times.

"Affectionately,

"WILL H. HAYS."

George Borthwick, auditor, presented a financial report. There was an open forum for general discussion.

Among the opening day's speakers were Gabriel Hess, who discussed the Arbitration system and Hickman Price who talked on conservation.

The program embraces discussions on Arbitration rules, standard exhibition contract and methods of co-ordinating the operations of the Film Boards.

The Hon. Thomas Taggart, owner of the French Lick Hotel and one of the most widely known of the Democrat leaders, gave the visiting delegates a dinner at which many social as well as political leaders were present.

Edward Laemmle, having recovered from an attack of influenza, is busy gathering a cast for the Henry Irving Dodge play, "The Counsel for the Defense." He is also looking for a good title. Anna Q. Nilsson will play the woman. Others already nominated are Sidney Bracey, Martha Mattox and Fred Kelsey.

Harvard Resolution

(Submitted by RAY LEWIS, Honorary S ecretary of the Canadian M. P. T. O.)

The Motion Picture Industry's relationship to the public is its first and greatest consideration; and any public gesture which cements public relationship through establishment of a recognition of the constructive elements of our Industry is a move significant to the welfare of the Industry.

An event occurred during 1927 which gave the Industry a new standing; and disarmed to a great extent criticisms aimed at its educational and ethical values.

The event is the introduction of the Motion Picture to the Harvard Institution of Learning, the oldest in America, through the progressive and fine spirited vision of Joseph Kennedy, president of Greater F. B. O. and a Harvard graduate of 1912.

Therefore be it resolved that the M. P. T. O. of America and Canada now in convention at Columbus, Ohio, June 8th, 1927, send to Mr. Kennedy an appreciative acknowledgement of his splendid service to the Industry, coupled with our thanks; and that the same acknowledgement be made to Harvard University for its progressive, educative co-operation; and to those leaders of our Industry, who as the speakers of the Motion Picture business series, so ably and constructively represented the many phases of our ever-growing Industry of Motion Pictures along commercial, industrial, artistic, educational and international good-will establishment.

Frank Toutloff Acquitted Of Firing Moreau Theatre

Frank Toutloff, a hotel-keeper of Gatineau Point, Quebec, was acquitted of arson in connection with the fire which destroyed the Moreau Theatre in Gatineau Point in 1920, when a jury brought in a verdict of not guilty in the Hull Court on June 2, after a trial of four days. There was more or less conflicting evidence, including the statements of Cherrier Cyr, an alleged accomplice of the accused, regarding the manner in which the fire was alleged to have been set, and by other witnesses who swore that Toutloff was a member of a fishing party over the period when the fire took place. It was brought out in the testimony that while the fire was in progress it was discovered that the town's reservoir was practically empty. Someone had turned on a fire hydrant in the outskirts of the town and most of the water had run out of this pipe.

Following the rendering of the verdict, more than 400 people of Gatineau Point staged a demonstration of approval and formed a parade to take Toutloff back to the town.

World's Poultry Congress Open to Screen News

The executive committee of the World's Poultry Congress, to be held in Ottawa, Ontario, starting July 27, has settled the cameraman question by announcing that no official photographer will be appointed for the big event which will draw probably 10,000 delegates from many countries.

No exclusive rights will be extended to any news weekly or company but all cameramen will be required to make application to the Congress secretary, Ernest Rhodes, Ottawa, for a camera permit to enter the park where the vent is to be held and camera equipment must be approved.

NED MILLER JOINS THE DEPARTED ONES

Well-Known Popular Manager Of Pantages Succumbs to Heart Attack

Again the Industry gets a death shock, one of The Horsemen of the Apocalypse, popular Ned Miller, of Pantages Theatre, is no longer one of us, having succumbed to a heart attack, the night of June 9th.

Mr. Miller, who has been conducting his fifth All-British Bill at the Pantages Theatre, Toronto, left the theatre at about eleven, Thursday night, and entering his car was seized with a heart attack. He was rushed to the hospital, but did not recover, and lapsing into unconsciousness he passed away about 11.30 p.m.

Mr. Miller was born at Elkhart, Indiana, coming to Toronto about seven years ago to open the Pantages Theatre, which is owned by the Eastern Theatres Ltd., an organization of Canadian shareholders, of which Mr. N. L. Nathanson is managing director. He would have celebrated his 43rd birthday, had Death not called him. Our sympathy is extended to his wife.

The funeral services will be held at 2.30 Sunday, Rosar's Undertaking Parlor, 467 Sherbourne St. The body will be taken to Elkhart, Indiana, for burial.

Mr. Miller will be greatly mourned and missed by the Industry in Canada. Everybody knew Ned Miller; and many a picture he landed on the road to prosperity, many that other showmen could not see. He was particularly partial to British programmes and pictures; and helped their distribution throughout Canada.

Last Minute News

Deloraine, Manitoba, will erect a $10,000 picture theatre this summer. It will be one storey in height, 26 x 100 feet. A frame construction on concrete foundation. W. Epton is the contractor.

Three masked men went into the Oriel Theatre, Dundalk, Ireland, and asked for the "Mons" film which they took to the back of the theatre and burned.

The King's Plate event at the Woodbine was not filmed because the Ontario Jockey Club officials, who had the jurisdiction in the matter, were not interested enough to extend this courtesy to the cameramen of the various News Reels, who were "on the job."

The Imperial, Chilliwack, B. C., has closed its doors. It will be remodelled for store purposes. The manager was W. O. Lilly and the lessee R. E. Berry, of Vancouver, B.C.

Walter Sinclair, Hart House director of Toronto, left for England and after a visit there will go on to New Orleans to direct the little Theatre Group there.

MGR. E. B. GRAVEL PREVENTS FIRE PANIC

Only the presence of mind of the manager, E. B. Gravel, prevented a panic among the patrons who packed the Grenville Theatre, on the second floor of the town hall at Merrickville, Ontario, May 27, when mischievous youths who had gathered on a fire escape close to the screen, raised the cry of fire.

About 200 persons, including 50 children, were gathered in the hall to witness "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and every seat was filled. Toward the close of the picture, at 10.45 p.m., the alarm was heard and the people leaped to their feet. Manager Gravel rushed to the front of the theatre and assured the patrons that there was no fire. The picture was not interrupted and no one left the hall.

Mr. Gravel immediately offered a reward of $50 for information leading to the arrest of the culprits and, although a search was made by Constable Buttermore and the manager, no evidence was secured. Manager Gravel pointed out that, although the Grenville Theatre is located on a second floor, there are five emergency exits and the patrons can leave the hall quite easily under ordinary circumstances.

Olga Baklanova, member of the Moscow Art Theatre, will play the leading role opposite Emil Jannings in his next motion picture, "Hitting for Heaven," according to word received in the offices of Morris Gest in New York.

Round About the Studios

A "chop-stick lesson." Lon Chaney, as he appears in "Mr. Wu," shows Lew Cody "how to use 'em." Both are Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer stars.

Mary Brian and Jack Luden were chosen for the cast of the railroad story, "Tell it to Sweeney," in which George Bancroft and Chester Conklin will make their debut as a Paramount comedy team. Kerry Clarke, Percy Heath and Eugene de Rue, wrote the original story, which Frank Strayer will direct.

An important addition made recently to the cast of "Spring Fever" for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, was George K. Arthur, whose success, paired with Karl Dane in "Rookies."

Harmon Weight has been engaged by Universal to direct "Viennese Lovers" with Mary Philbin and Jean Hersholt. Raymond Keane is the only other player so far cast.

Monte Blue and Leila Hyans starring in Warner's "The Brute."

Luther Reed, director of Florence Vidor in "The World at Her Feet," was a scenarist when he was given the opportunity to direct Adolphe Menjou in "The Ace of Cads." He followed up this success with "New York" and "Evening Clothes," starring Adolphe Menjou.

Larry Semon, long a favorite in the two-reel comedy field, is returning to the Educational banner with a series of daring, fast-moving comedies, which he will make at the California Studios. Mr. Semon has a great following of fans and his re-appearance in these favorite laugh-producing pictures will be a most welcome one.

Harold Lloyd has determined upon the story for his next production, a story possessing a New York background that will take him to the Eastern metropolis for at least four weeks during the heighth of the baseball and the Coney Island season. Both the Yankee stadium and the world's greatest amusement center have important settings in the new Lloyd story.

Ted Wilde, who directed "The Kid Brother," was selected by Lloyd to again handle the directorial reins. With John L. Murphy, production manager, once more in charge of the shooting.

Al Rogell is directing Ken Maynard in "The Devil's Saddle," his latest Charles R. Rogers production for First National Pictures.

Tarzan, the wonder horse, will be prominent in this film wherein Maynard does some of the most sensational feats of horsemanship that he has attempted to date.

"The Devil's Saddle" has a powerful plot.

Casting of the principal roles for the screen version of the Broadway stage success, "The Jazz Singer," continues at the Warner Bros. studio where Alan Crosland is getting ready to direct. Otto Lederer, it is announced, has been given the leading comedy part portrayed on the stage by Same Jaffe.

"The Jazz Singer" is listed as one of the Extended Run Productions on Warner Bros.' release schedule for the coming season.

Laura La Plante had a field day at Universal City Saturday. She finished "Silk Stockings" and entertained Miss K. Sunada, Japanese premiere film star.

Scene from "Bill Grimm's Progress," released through Greater F. B. O.

Barbara Worth, Universal contract player, will play the leading feminine role in the Universal Western "The Fearless Rider," starring Fred Humes. Edgar Lewis will direct the picture.

In the past four months Miss Worth has appeared in the leading feminine role with Reginald Denny in "Fast and Furious," with Hoot Gibson in "The Prairie King."

Tom J. Geraghty has been assigned to prepare the screen adaptations of Percival Christopher Wren's "Beau Sabreur," which James Cruze will direct for Paramount. "Beau Sabreur" is a story of the French Foreign Legion in North Africa and the sheik life of the Sahara. It brings back, as its principal characters, Hank and Buddy, who supplied comedy relief in "Beau Geste."

Allan Forrest appearing in Fox productions.

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